

Presently, Lisa works for New York State Senator John Sampson, and serves as his district director. Formerly, she was employed in my office and that of former Congressman Stephen Solarz.

Lisa distinguished herself as a student at Queens College where she received a bachelor of arts degree in English. A life-long resident of Carnarsie, she has been dedicated to public and community service.

As a devoted mother, wife, and daughter, I am happy to acknowledge Lisa Falcone for her tireless efforts as a public servant.

HONORING DANNY WUERFFEL

HON. JOE SCARBOROUGH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 1997

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about a young man from my district who has achieved a level of moral, physical, and scholastic excellence that is an inspiration to young men and women across this great Nation. This young man has distinguished himself as a community leader, a team player, and a model of humility in the spotlight of success. The young man that I speak of today is Okaloosa County's own Danny Wuerffel.

I could praise Danny for distinguishing himself as one of this Nation's most renowned college scholar athletes. I could mention that Danny set 32 individual school records, 12 southeastern conference records, and four NCAA records. How Danny led the Florida Gators to four straight league championships and the university's first national championship in school history. And as a footnote, I could also add that Danny was awarded something they call the Heisman Trophy in 1996.

But in my opinion Mr. Speaker, mere athletic achievements do not rise to the level of significance to be mentioned on this House floor. Mr. Speaker, I rise today not because of what Danny Wuerffel did for 60 minutes a week during the fall of 1996, but instead for what he has done his entire life while few were watching. My close friend J.C. Watts says, "Character is what you do when no one is watching." By that standard, Danny Wuerffel has the character of a champion.

He maintained a 3.75 cumulative grade point average throughout his college career and was named the GTE Academic All-American of the Year for 2 consecutive years. As a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, he became a spiritual leader for his teammates and the community, and witnessed to the world through his words and actions.

Perhaps the greatest lesson that we can all learn from Mr. Wuerffel is how to accept success and failure with humility and grace. The example of true sportsmanship that is epitomized by Mr. Wuerffel has become a rarity in athletics today. Today, as a father of two young boys who place sports stars on a pedestal, I have grown increasingly distressed by athletes' drug convictions, sexual assaults, and arrogant attitudes. In the midst of a cultural crisis, Danny Wuerffel stood out like a city shining brightly on a hill for all the world to see. As a father, I am proud to have my two young boys look up to Danny Wuerffel as a role model.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to honor Danny Wuerffel today. Okaloosa County, the University of Florida, and the entire Nation should follow Danny's example as a young man who has exemplified the American ideals, morals, and accomplishments, envisioned by our founding fathers. Again, this father says, "Thank you, Danny, for a job well done."

HONORING EDDIE T. PEARSON FOR 33 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING AND CONTINUED SERVICE TO DATE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. CARRIE P. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 1997

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the Dade County public schools have declared February 27, 1997 as Eddie T. Pearson Day in honor of his accomplishments as one of Dade County's most outstanding educators and administrators.

It is my great pleasure to join Mr. Pearson's family, friends, coworkers, and students in recognizing his 33 years of outstanding and continuous service to our community. We congratulate Mr. Pearson for his contributions as an educator, a role model, and a mentor who helped shape the lives of thousands of children in our Dade County community.

Mr. Pearson earned a Bachelor of Science degree at Tuskegee Institute, a Master of Education from Florida Atlantic University, and a Specialist in Education degree from the University of Florida. He began his career as a teacher in Dade County at Bethune Elementary School in 1963, and then at Riverside Elementary School. In 1967, he was the Community School Director at Ada Merritt Junior High School where he was responsible for a 400 percent increase in educational programs, and 700 percent increase in other activities for youth and young adults. Mr. Pearson quickly advanced to become the Assistant Principal at Homestead Junior High School, and later became Principal of the school. He was only 26 at the time, the youngest Principal in the Dade County public schools, and he was the first Afro-American Principal of Homestead Junior High School in 1970. In addition, he served as the Principal of South Dade Senior High School and Homestead Senior High School.

Mr. Pearson distinguished himself as an outstanding administrator as Executive Director of the Division of Vocational, Adult, and Community Education with the Dade County public schools. He also served as Assistant Superintendent for the Office of Vocational, Adult, and Community Education; Administrator on Special Assignment and Assistant Superintendent for Area Operations; and Regional Superintendent of the Region VI Operations for 8 years. Furthermore, Mr. Pearson successfully designed and implemented a plan that provided for the integration of the Homestead Middle School student body. Today, Mr. Pearson continues his outstanding service as Deputy Superintendent of School Operations. We are fortunate that Mr. Pearson has devoted his life to ensuring quality education for all our children.

In addition to his many years as an educator, Mr. Pearson has been extremely active in

other areas of our community. He served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the YMCA, and now continues to serve on the Board of Directors of the YMCA, Miami "Mega-City" Special Olympics, Pan AM Horizons Credit Union, and United Way of Dade County. His exceptional, notable service, and commitment to Dade County has included dozens of positions in numerous organizations, earning more awards than I can list here.

Mr. Eddie T. Pearson has proven to be an excellent role model for our children. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my entire community and as a former educator myself, I offer him my deepest thanks for his many years of dedicated service, and our best wishes for his continued success.

HONORING ALICE SACHS HAMBURG

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 1997

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, on February 22, 1997, Alice Sachs Hamburg received a well-earned recognition for her decades of work on behalf of world peace and disarmament. Long a resident of the ninth California District, Ms. Hamburg has been a tireless advocate on behalf of a cause that I hold close to my heart as well. She has been an important supporter and colleague on these issues, and I am indebted to her leadership, tireless energy, and deep-seated commitment to the issues of peace and disarmament.

Obviously our community shares this view as well, and it is in this spirit that she is being honored by the Jane Addams Peace Association of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom [WILPF].

She has been on the frontlines of progressive activism in the bay area for a half-century. Nurtured by her Lithuanian Jewish immigrant parents on a drought-plagued North Dakota homestead, she came to know the meaning of struggle and the cycles of the land. Her connection with the land ripened during her marriage to the late Sam Hamburg, an innovative California farmer.

In explaining her activism with WILPF against the United States war effort in Vietnam, she said: "It was like breathing or feeding your children. We didn't think there was any alternative." As the mother of three children, Ms. Hamburg's family life and activism, were intertwined.

Inspired to make their lives better by building a better community and bringing reconciliation among nations, she became active in efforts to integrate Berkeley's public schools, participated in demonstrations against atmospheric nuclear weapons tests that poisoned the milk her children would drink, organized public vigils to bring the Vietnam war to an end and to halt the war effort in Nicaragua, and to oppose a rising tide of animosity against programs dedicated to bringing equal opportunity to all of our Nation's people.

Ms. Hamburg has worked for decades with countless local and national coalitions, but her base of operations has long been WILPF, Women for Peace, and the Agape Foundation for Nonviolent Social Change. The key, she

says, is to "walk, talk, demonstrate, lobby, meet with our representatives, circulate petitions, and write letters, telegrams, faxes, and e-mail"—a veritable laundry list of the activities the framers protected in the first amendment to our Constitution.

Her decades of commitment have set an example and drawn numerous honors and awards. At one such ceremony, Nobel Peace Prize winner Linus Pauling said of Alice: "Down through the years I have been aware of and inspired by your strong commitment and contributions to world peace and justice. This strength will grow and grow so that our future generations may not have to sacrifice their security or lives."

I commend this history of activism to my colleagues and, on behalf of all of the residents of the ninth District, offer my thanks and appreciation for all that Alice Sachs Hamburg has done on behalf of my community and our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO VICTOR PACKING OF MADERA, CA

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Sahatdjian family of Madera, CA who own and operate Victor Packing. As farmers in the No. 1 agricultural county in the world, the Sahatdjian's are leaders in the grape industry.

In a recent article in the Armenian General Benevolent Union [AGBU] magazine, the Sahatdjian's are praised for their outstanding contribution to the San Joaquin Valley. The Sahatdjian family arrived in Fresno in 1924, after fleeing their home in Ezerum, Turkey because of the Armenian Genocide. Their father Vagharshag (Victor), mother Makrouhi and brothers Sarkis and Haig, arrived in the United States when they were 1½ and 4 years old. Farming and agriculture became a way of life as Victor, a former leather tanner, his wife, and children followed the crops along with many other migrant farm workers. The family went from Rio Vista near Sacramento to pack asparagus, back to Fresno to harvest figs and grapes and then to Northern California when peaches were in season. Eventually, the family settled in Fresno after Victor bought a vineyard of his own and began farming the land.

The Depression brought hard times for all in the Valley and the Sahatdjian family provided for members of their extended family by sharing with them the crops grown on their farm. In 1949, Victor purchased a 40-acre piece of land which would eventually become the base of Victor Packing. In 1963, Victor Packing became a full-time farming and packing business when Sarkis and Haig Sahatdjian began to process and pack their own raisins along with the raisins of other growers.

Desire, ingenuity, and business savvy paid off for the Sahatdjian brothers. Today, Victor Packing is known as one of the leading packing houses in the Fresno County area. They are the world's largest in production and market-share of golden raisins. They also have the world's largest dehydrator which allows them to produce more raisins at a time for their clients. Additionally, they have continued

to focus their efforts on the sun-dried raisin market and are expanding globally to manufacturers all over the world. Nearly 75 percent of their finished product is shipped to the Middle East, Far East, Europe, and the Pacific rim.

Mr. Speaker, Victor Packing is an example of the determination and hard work Victor Sahatdjian represented to his family his whole life. The Victor Packing logo is the Liberty Bell and is said to represent the land of freedom that the family found in the United States of America. I ask my colleagues to join me as I offer my best wishes to the entire Sahatdjian family for every continued success.

HONORING WESTHAMPTON FREE LIBRARY

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 1997

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Westhampton Free Library, in my hometown of Westhampton Beach, Long Island, on the occasion of its centennial anniversary. For the past century, this wondrous haven of literature has offered this tight-knit, seaside community a place for its children and adults to stimulate their intellectual curiosity and satisfy their lifelong love of reading.

From its modest beginnings on March 1, 1897, as collection of a little more than 100 borrowed books, the Westhampton Free Library has endured to become the cultural center of this south shore Long Island village. Today, this dynamic institution boasts an impressive collection of traditional hardbound volumes, along with an emerging addition of computerized research and communication tools. There are more than 7,000 patrons from the communities of Westhampton, Westhampton Beach, Speonk, Remsenburg, East Quogue, Eastport and East Moriches.

The library's original charter was signed by Melville Dewey, then the secretary of the New York State board of regents. This is the same gentleman who conceived the Dewey decimal system for cataloging books, the universal catalogue system used in America's schools and libraries. Mr. Dewey's christening foretold a bright future for the Westhampton Free Library.

The library's provisional charter was granted on March 1, 1897 and the surnames of trustees on that document included some of the most prominent families in Long Island's heritage. The descendants of the original trustees—including John B. Raynor, Mary E. Jessup, Mabel B. Stevens, Daniel E. Smith and Ernest H. Bishop—are today leaders in the Westhampton and Long Island community.

Perhaps the most important influence on the growth of the Westhampton Free Library was the largesse of Judge Harold Medina, a long-time summer resident of Westhampton and a true lover of books. Judge Medina established a library trust fund to build, furnish and equip a new library building as a gift to the people of Westhampton. By the Fall of 1953, the new library was complete and Judge Medina began the work of establishing a new collection of books. Then in 1958, he announced plans to build a new wing—named the "Judge Harold

R. Medina Room"—entirely devoted to American history and literature.

Today, the card catalogue is located on computerized files and the Westhampton Free Library boasts four on-line Internet terminals, connecting library patrons to a vast international network of computers. The three multi-media CD-ROM learning stations offer patrons immediate access to a vast array of informational resources. Paul Nevins, president of the library's board of trustees, put it best when he said: "You can't really call it a library anymore. It's more of a communications center."

One hundred years ago, the Westhampton Free Library was founded with a noble purpose of offering the finest literary and research collection possible. A century later, the technology and means have changed, but the objective remains steadfast: to provide the residents of this east end village ready access to vital information. Congratulations to the Westhampton Free Library on its 100th anniversary!

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND BONNIE M. EPPS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed my honor and pleasure to introduce to my colleagues, the Reverend Bonnie M. Epps. She is a wonderful example of living faith in action.

Reverend Epps is a native of Brooklyn, NY, and presently serves on the ministerial staff of the Bridge Street African Methodist Episcopal Church.

The reverend was educated in parochial and public schools in Brooklyn. She obtained her undergraduate degree from Brooklyn College of New York, with a concentration in elementary education. Her master's degree was obtained in supervision and administration from Bankstreet College, and she has attended the Principal's Center at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education.

Reverend Epps is an innovator and motivator. She served as the assistant principal at the Philippa Schuyler Intermediate School for the gifted and talented. Her vision and instructional leadership is responsible for raising academic standards, self-esteem among the students, and prestige for the only talented and gifted program in my congressional district.

Another shining achievement for Reverend Epps is the success of her son Omar, an actor who has appeared on NBC's "ER", and has starred in HBO's "Deadly Voyage," and feature films such as "Higher Learning," "Juice," "Mayor League II," and "The Program."

I salute Reverend Epps for her service to God and the community.

THE PROMISE OF FREEDOM

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 25, 1997

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the death of four Cuban-